

CENTRALLY MANAGED AND DISTRIBUTED APPLICATIONS

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

- A method and system thereof for distributing, implementing and
- 5 managing applications on computer systems, in particular client computer systems coupled to server computer systems in a network. A client-based shell program downloads and installs text-based files, such as files that are written using an Extensible Markup Language (XML) syntax. The XML files define different components (objects) of an application. The shell program meshes the
- 10 XML files to create the application. The application can be updated by downloading and installing a new version of an XML file. The application can be executed on a client computer system with or without a network connection to a server computer system. The application can also be executed on the client computer system while waiting for a response from the server to a
- 15 preceding request. Thus, the functionality of a "fat" client is provided in a "thin" client.